

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

EUR-25 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SS-15 EB-11 SPC-03 MC-02 L-03

DRC-01 /109 W

----- 083434

R 131405Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4922

INFO SECDEF

CSAF WASHDC

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USMTM DHAHRAN

DOD

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

S E C R E T JIDDA 3967

DOD FOR ISA

CSAF FOR AFXOXX AND AFLGF

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJ: F-4 BRIEFING OF MODA PRINCE SULTAN

REF: (A) USDAO 0311 SEP 73 (1214Z SEP 11, 1973) NOTAL; (B)
JIDDA 3934

SUMMARY. DURING EXCELLENT BRIEFING BY F-4 TEAM SEPT 11, MODA PRINCE SULTAN SHOWED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN PORTIONS DEVOTED TO F-4 TRAINING AND MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS. HE AGREED TO ADDITIONAL RSAF FAMILIARIZATION WITH F-4 IN OCTOBER WHEN RSAF TEAM WILL BE IN US FOR F-5 FOLLOW-UP TALKS. AT THAT TIME SAUDI OFFICERS LIKELY TO PRESS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE WEAPONS SYSTEMS FOR F-4.
END SUMMARY.

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1. DCM PRESENTED F-4 BRIEFING TEAM, HEADED BY COL. DONALD

SWENHOLT, TO MODA PRINCE SULTAN SEP 11. TEAM ACCOMPANIED BY ACTING CHUSMTM COL. LEARMONTH. ON SAUDI SIDE RSAF REPRESENTED BY AIR FORCE COS, GENERAL ZUHAIR; DIROPS BG RAYES; F-5 SQUADRON COMMANDER LT. COL. BEHERY; F-5 OPERATIONAL CONVERSION UNIT (OCU) COMMANDER LT. COL. HAMDAN, MAJOR FAHAD, OCU (AND NEPHEW OF MODA); AND PRINCE'S OFFICE DIRECTOR COL. KHALIFAH.

2. FOR PURPOSES OF ILLUSTRATION, BRIEFING BASED UPON LOGISTICAL, TRAINING, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR ONE SQUADRON OF 24 PHANTOM II-E F-4 AIRCRAFT. BRIEFING INDICATED FIRST AIRCRAFT COULD BE DELIVERED 36 MONTHS AFTER FIRM ORDER PLACED; DESCRIPTION OF ARMAMENTS INCLUDED 750 LB. BOMBS, SPARROW AND FALCON MISSILES, AND 20MM. GATLING GUN. SAUDIS UNDERSTOOD THAT TEAM COULD NOT DISCUSS NUMBERS OF PRICES AND THESE QUESTIONS DID NOT ARISE.

3. PRINCE LISTENED WITH CLOSE ATTENTION TO COL. SWENHOLT'S BRIEFING WHICH ACCOMPANIED BY SLIDES AND DIAGRAM PROJECTIONS. HE SHOWED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THOSE PORTIONS OF BRIEFING CONCERNED WITH TRAINING AND OVERALL MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS OF AN F-4 PROGRAM. ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS HE INTERRUPTED BRIEFER TO ASK FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT NUMBER OF CREWS TO BE TRAINED AND TO SEEK REASSURANCE THAT AIRCARFT IN QUESTION WAS INDEED LATEST VERSION IN HANDS USAF.

4. UPON CONCLUSION OF BRIEFING (WHICH LASTED APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR) PRINCE THANKED COL. SWENHOLT AND HIS TEAM FOR AN ABLE PRESENTATION AND SUGGESTED ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS RSAF MIGHT HAVE ON F-4 PROGRAM COULD BE TAKEN UP IN OCTOBER WHEN RSAF TEAM WOULD BE IN US FOR FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS ON PEACE HAWK PROGRAM. SULTAN APPROVED IDEA THAT SAUDI PEACE HAWK TEAM COULD AT THAT TIME FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES MORE FULLY WITH CAPABILITIES OF F-4 AND DEMANDS OF TRAINING PROGRAM. (COPIES OF BRIEFING LEFT WITH MODA, TOGETHER WITH TECHNICAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY MCDONNELL DOUGLAS).

5. DURING BRIEFING WITH MODA, SAUDI SIDE DID NOT RAISE QUESTION OF WHETHER INFORMATION ON CERTAIN POSSIBLE WEAPONS SYSTEMS FOR F-4 HAD BEEN OMITTED FROM BRIEFING. DURING EARLIER

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BRIEFING BY F-4 TEAM OF RSAF OFFICERS (REF A), GENERAL RAYES EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT IN THIS RESPECT F-4 TEAMS'S PRESENTATION INCOMPLETE; HE ARGUED RSAF COULD NOT MAKE KNOWLEDGEABLE RECOMMENDATION RE POSSIBLE F-4 PURCHASE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF ALL TYPES WEAPONS THAT F-4 CAN DELIVER AND WHICH OF THESE WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE.

COMMENT: USMTM WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH MODA ABOUT VISIT OF RSAF FOLLOW-UP TEAM TO CONUS FOR DISCUSSIONS ON PEACE HAWK

AND ADDITIONAL FAMILIARIZATION F-4. QUESTION OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS
FOR AIRCRAFT LIKELY TO ARISE AND STATE/DOD SHOULD CONSIDER
WHAT WEAPONS SYSTEMS COULD BE MENTIONED OR OFFERED TO SAUDIS.
A PSYCHOLOGICALLY IMPORTANT FACTOR TO SAG WOULD BE DEGREE OF
PARITY WITH ISRAEL OR AT LEAST WITH NEIGHBORING IRAN.
THACHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MILITARY VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973JIDDA03967
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS THACHER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730937/aaaabbja.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) USDAO 0311 SEP 73 (1214Z SEP 11
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: F-4 BRIEFING OF MODA PRINCE SULTAN
TAGS: MASS, SA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005